4. (Amended) The compensator of [claim 2] a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material having respective molecular orientations which, in combination, define said variation of the optical symmetry axis.

5. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein [an] said azimuthal angle [θ, relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, and said tilt angle is substantially fixed at an angle between approximately 25 degrees and approximately 65 degrees, along an axis normal to said layer.

6. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein [a] said tilt angle [ϕ, relative to the plane of the layer, of the optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, and said azimuthal angle is substantially fixed along an axis normal to said layer.

7. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an

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axis normal to said layer, and said azimuthal angle is substantially fixed along an axis normal to said layer and wherein the tilt angles of adjacent said layers vary in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively.

C3 7 14. (Amended Twice) The compensator of [a specified one of claims 3, 4,] claim 2 5 [, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, or 18,] further comprising one or more A-plate layers.

C4 8 15. (Amended) The compensator of claim 2 8 [14], further comprising one or more C-plate layers.

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28 23. (Amended Twice) A liquid crystal display for viewing at various angles with respect to a normal axis perpendicular to the display, comprising:

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(a) (a) a polarizer layer;

(b) (b) an analyzer layer;

(c) (c) a liquid crystal layer disposed between the polarizer layer and the analyzer layer;

(d) (d) a first electrode proximate to a first major surface of the liquid crystal layer;

(e) (e) a second electrode proximate to a second major surface of the liquid crystal layer, the first and second electrodes being adapted to apply a voltage across the liquid crystal layer when the electrodes are connected to a source of electrical potential; and

(f) (f) a compensator in accordance with a specified one of claims 1, 5, 6, 2, 3, 4, 24, 25, 26, 7, 8, 9, 13, 10, 14, 27, 15, 11, 16, and 17 ~~1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14,~~ [or] ~~18, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38~~ disposed between the polarizer layer and the analyzer layer.

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